

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /106 W

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R 311841Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7597

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONBERRY

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: PROVOS TO STOP KILLING UDR?

FOLLOWING TRANSMITTED BY CONSULATE GENERAL BELFAST:

BEGIN SUMMARY THERE ARE PRESS REPORTS THAT PROVISIONAL IRA HAS ANNOUNCED HALT TO ACTIONS AGAINST OFF-DUTY MEMBERS OF NI'S (MAINLY PROTESTANT) LOCAL ARMY RESERVE UNIT, THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT. PROVO CAMPAIGN AGAINST UDR HAS IN PAST COST LIVES OF 4L UDR MEN (34 WHILE OFF DUTY) AND APPARENTLY LED TO RECIPROCAL ASSASSINATIONS OF BELFAST CATHOLICS BY VARIOUS LOYALIST PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS. IT IS THOUGHT THAT PROVOS ARE HOPING LOYALISTS WILL NOW HALT SUCH ATTACKS DEFINITELY AND CONSIDER FAVORABLY RECENT PROPOSALS BY DESMOND BOAL FOR AN "AMALGAMATED IRELAND" WHICH PROVISIONALS REGARD AS SIMILAR TO THEIR OWN NOTIONS ON FUTURE SHAPE OF THIS ISLAND. IF, AS REPORTED, PROVOS ALSO STEP UP ATTACKS AGAINST ENGLISH NOTABLES IN ENGLAND, THIS WOULD DO NO HARM TO THEIR RELATIONS WITH MILITANT LOYALISTS, WHO ARE INCREASINBLY

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FED UP WITH ENGLISH RULE END SUMMARY

1. WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS THAT PROVISIONAL IRA HAVE ANNOUNCED THEY WILL HALT ACTIONS AGAINST OFF-DUTY MEMBERS OF THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT.

2. UDR IS LOCALLY-RECRUITED ARMY RESERVE ELEMENT. IT WAS FOUNDED IN 1970 AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF HUNT REPORT RECOMMENDATION THAT ULSTER SPECIAL CONSTABULARY ('B SPECIALS') BE ABOLISHED BECAUSE OF ITS IDENTIFICATION WITH PROTESTANT ASCENDANCY IN NORTHERN IRELAND. UDR MANS CHECKPOINTS, GUARDS ESSENTIAL INSTALLATIONS, AND OPERATES IN COOPERATION WITH REGULAR BRITISH ARMY AND OTHER SECURITY FORCES IN SITUATIONS IN WHICH ITS LOCAL KNOWLEDGE IS THOUGHT TO BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL. BRITISH ARMY PROVIDES OFFICERS FOR IT; ITS PERSONNEL STRENGTH WAS 7632 AT END 1973; SOME WORK FULL-TIME AND OTHERS PART-TIME.

3. UDR IS IDENTIFIED IN MANY MINDS WITH LOYALISTS. DESPITE RECRUITING APPEALS AIMED AT BOTH COMMUNITIES, ABOUT 97 PERCENT OF ITS TROOPS ARE PROTESTANT, AND SOME OF THESE ARE THOUGHT TO BELONG ALSO TO LOYALIST PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS. THERE HAVE BEEN CERTAIN WIDELY-PUBLICIZED CASES IN WHICH LOYALIST ORGANIZATIONS WERE ABLE, WITH APPARENT EASE, TO STEAL WEAPONS FROM UDR ARMORIES, AND A RECENT STATEMENT BY ONE SUCH GROUP SPECIFICALLY CITED UDR AMONG ORGANIZATIONS (SOME ILLEGAL) WHICH TRUE LOYALISTS SHOULD JOIN. SOME PAST KILLINGS OF OFF-DUTY UDR MEN (SOME 34 OF THE 41 THAT REGIMENT HAS LOST HAVE BEEN KILLED OFF-DUTY) HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN AVENGED BY ASSASSINATIONS OF BELFAST CATHOLICS BY LOYALIST TERRORISTS. PROVISIONAL IRA'S DECISION TO SPARE OFF-DUTY UDR MEN IS SAID TO BE VICTORY FOR BELFAST ANNENBERG

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R 311841Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7598

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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PROVISIONALS, WHOSE NEIGHBORS WERE SUFFERING FROM LOYALIST RETALIATION AND WHO HAD ALREADY ABANDONED ATTACKS ON OFF-DUTY UDR MEN, OVER COMRADES FROM BORDER AREA WHO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF UDR KILLINGS. IT IS HOPED LOYALISTS WILL RECIPROCATATE DEFINITELY BY ENDING THEIR ASSASSINATIONS OF CATHOLICS. (THESE ASSASSINATIONS HAVE DIMINISHED MARKEDLY SINCE THE ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE "CEASE-FIRE" IN NOVEMBER 1973.)

4. REPORTED PROVO ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO CONNECTED END OF ANTI-UDR CAMPAIGN WITH REPORTEDLY SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE GIVEN BY UVF TO DESMOND BOAL'S PROPOSAL FOR AN "AMALGAMATED IRELAND." (BOAL IS FORMER STORMONT SHANKILL M.P. AND QUONDAM CHAIRMAN OF IAN PAISLEY'S DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY WHO HAS TAKEN LITTLE PART IN POLITICS SINCE PAISLEY JOINED WITH CRAIG TO FIGHT HMG'S WHITE PAPER IN MARCH 1973.) IN EARLY JANUARY BOAL GAVE A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW SAYING LOYALISTS MIGHT AS WELL REALIZE HMG WAS TRYING TO GET OUT OF IRELAND AND SHOULD NEGOTIATE WITH SOUTH ON "AMALGAMATED IRELAND." HE ARGUES THAT THIS WOULD LEAVE THE NORTH INTERNALLY SELF-GOVERNING AND PROTESTANT. ANOTHER PRESS REPORT SAID UVF (WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHOM BOAL HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN CLOSE RECENTLY) WAS CONSIDERING APPARENTLY WITH REAL INTEREST BOAL'S IDEA. WESTMINSTER FERMANAGH-SOUTH TYRONE M.P. FRANK MCMANUS, WHO IS CLOSE TO PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN, MET BOAL IN BELFAST AND AFTERWARDS PROCLAIMED THAT HE SAW MANY SIMILARITIES BETWEEN BOAL'S PROPOSALS AND HIS OWN, WHICH ARE SHARED BY PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN, FOR A FEDERAL IRELAND ALLOWING CONSIDERABLE AUTONOMY TO A NINE-COUNTY ULSTER.

5. IT IS ALSO REPORTED THAT PROVISIONALS ARE CONSIDERING STEPPING UP THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST ENGLAND AND ENGLISH-MEN. ASIDE FROM IMPACT THIS MIGHT HAVE ON BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION, SUCH AN ACTION IN COMBINATION WITH NEW RESTRAINT

VIS-A-VIS UDR WOULD SERVE TO SHOW ULSTERMEN THAT LATTER'S  
INCREASING DISTASTE FOR ENGLISH RULE IS COMMON GROUND  
BETWEEN THEM AND THEIR SOUTHERN IRISH BROTHERS.

ANNENBERG

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